

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12-20 and 22-24 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

By this Amendment, Applicant has incorporated claim 19 and intervening claim 18 into claim 1.

Watanabe

Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 12-18 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watanabe et al. (JP 2001225392 A; henceforth “Watanabe”).

Claim 1 recites, “wherein the activation energy ray irradiation apparatus is an ultraviolet light irradiation apparatus, and an irradiation outlet thereof is moved in association with the extrusion orifice of the three-dimensional automatic coating controlling apparatus.”

This feature was previously recited in claim 19. Since claim 19 was not rejected in view of Watanabe, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable at least by virtue of its incorporation of the features of claim 19.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that claims 4, 5, 10, 12-17 and 22-24 are patentable over the cited reference at least by virtue of their dependency. Claim 18 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and the features thereof have been incorporated into claim 1.

Wakamatsu and Watanabe

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12-17, 20 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wakamatsu (JP 2001182836 A) in view of Watanabe.

Claim 1 recites, “wherein the activation energy ray irradiation apparatus is an ultraviolet light irradiation apparatus, and an irradiation outlet thereof is moved in association with the extrusion orifice of the three-dimensional automatic coating controlling apparatus.”

This feature was previously recited in claim 19. Since claim 19 was not rejected in view of Wakamatsu and Watanabe, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable at least by virtue of its incorporation of the features of claim 19.

Applicant submits that claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12-17, 20 and 22-24 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Watanabe and Wakamatsu

Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 12-18 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Wakamatsu. The present rejection merely applies Watanabe as the primary reference and Wakamatsu as the secondary reference (reverse of the above rejection).

Claim 1 recites, “wherein the activation energy ray irradiation apparatus is an ultraviolet light irradiation apparatus, and an irradiation outlet thereof is moved in association with the extrusion orifice of the three-dimensional automatic coating controlling apparatus.”

This feature was previously recited in claim 19. Since claim 19 was not rejected in view of Watanabe and Wakamatsu, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable at least by virtue of its incorporation of the features of claim 19.

Applicant submits that claims 4, 5, 10, 12-17 and 22-24 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency. Claim 18 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and the features thereof have been incorporated into claim 1.

Watanabe and Bernd

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12-20 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Bernd et al. (U.S. Patent 5,731,541; henceforth “Bernd”).

Claim 1 recites, “wherein the activation energy ray irradiation apparatus is an ultraviolet light irradiation apparatus, and an irradiation outlet thereof is moved in association with the extrusion orifice of the three-dimensional automatic coating controlling apparatus.”

This feature was previously recited in claim 19. Although claim 19 is included in the listing of rejected dependent claims, Applicant submits that neither Watanabe nor Bernd disclose the features recited therein. This is acknowledged by the Examiner on page 11 of the present Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable at least by virtue of its incorporation of the features of claim 19.

Applicant submits that claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12-17, 20 and 22-24 are patentable over the cited references at least by virtue of their dependency. Claims 18 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and the features thereof have been incorporated into claim 1.

Kawabuchi and Watanabe

Claims 1, 4, 5, 12-19 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kawabuchi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,945,463; henceforth “Kawabuchi”) in view of Watanabe.

Claim 1 recites, “wherein the activation energy ray irradiation apparatus is an ultraviolet light irradiation apparatus, and an irradiation outlet thereof is moved in association with the extrusion orifice of the three-dimensional automatic coating controlling apparatus.”

The above feature was previously recited in claim 19. With regard to claim 19, the Examiner acknowledges that the references fail to disclose the claimed feature. Nevertheless, the Examiner maintains that Kawabuchi teaches, “gasket material extruded from an extrusion orifice onto the cover may be cured while extruding using UV apparatus that is moved together with a dispenser to maintain an extruded shape (See Figs. 1 and 2; column 9, lines 23-40)” (pg. 12 of present Office Action). Applicant again traverses the Examiner’s assertion.

The section of Kawabuchi cited by the Examiner describes an apparatus for discharging and curing gasket material using UV light (Col. 9, lines 23-27). As shown in Fig. 1, the apparatus is equipped with a pipe 2 for supplying a composition curable by UV light, a dispenser 3 and a control part for an X-Y-Z driving robot 1 (Col. 9, lines 28-32). Kawabuchi describes the dispenser, which transfers the UV light curable composition from a storage tank (not illustrated), being controlled by the X-Y-Z-driving robot 1 to discharge the composition in a specific shape

(Col. 9, lines 32-36). In other words, Kawabuchi describes a dispenser which discharges the UV light curable composition, and the dispenser is controlled by the X-Y-Z-driving robot 1. Fig. 2 shows the composition being discharged into a specified shape.

Kawabuchi also describes an apparatus for irradiating UV light to cure the composition after it has been discharged from the dispenser (Col. 9, lines 36-40). However, Kawabuchi does not show the apparatus for irradiating UV light in any of the figures. Further, Kawabuchi neither teaches, nor even fairly suggests that the X-Y-Z-driving robot moves the apparatus for irradiating UV light in any way. Therefore, Applicant again submits that Kawabuchi does not teach, or even fairly suggest “an ultraviolet light irradiation apparatus, and an irradiation outlet thereof is **moved in association with** the extrusion orifice of the three-dimensional automatic coating controlling apparatus” and thus the features of claim 1 are patentable over this reference. Further, Watanabe fails to cure the deficient teachings of Kawabuchi.

On page 13 of the present Office Action, the Examiner responds to Applicant’s previous arguments by referring to the same portion of Kawabuchi as discussed above (i.e., col. 9, lines 23-40). The Examiner specifically refers to Kawabuchi’s explicit inclusion of an apparatus for irradiation of ultraviolet light being provided with the apparatus. Applicant submits that such fact is not in contention. Rather, Applicant submits that contrary to the Examiner’s assertion, there is no teaching or suggestion of moving an irradiation outlet of the disclosed irradiation apparatus in association with the extrusion orifice of the dispenser 3. The Examiner specifically refers to Figure 1 of Kawabuchi. Such figure merely depicts the X, Y, Z driving robot 1, the

tubing 2 that supplies the composition to be cured by UV light and the dispenser 3. As specifically disclosed in Kawabuchi, the dispenser first discharges the composition and the composition is then irradiated by ultraviolet light (col. 9, lines 33-40). Such apparatus for the irradiation of UV light is not depicted in Figure 1, nor is the storage tank that stores the UV light curable composition. If anything, Figure 1 suggests that the UV apparatus is *not* connected with the X, Y, Z driving robot 1 because if there were any such connection it would be shown. Without any further disclosure in this regard, there is clearly no teaching of the dispenser 3 and the *non-depicted* apparatus for irradiation of UV light moving together.

Moreover, in Example 6, the UV light is irradiated “in such a manner that the side of the adhesive layer of the length of 30 mm was directly irradiated by the light from the direction of the side.” This clearly indicates that the step of dispensing the UV curable composition and the step of UV irradiation are two independent steps performed successively because it is simply impossible to dispense the UV curable composition onto one steel plate, and simultaneously irradiate UV light to the UV curable composition sandwiched between two steel plates sideways if the x-y-z driving automatic coating robot is equipped with a UV lamp. Therefore, it is reasonably expected that Example 5 is also performed in a similar manner because Example 6 is not particularly noted for its uniqueness of two-step procedure.

Accordingly, it is reasonably understood that the apparatus of Kawabuchi includes the dispenser shown in Figure 1, an independent storage tank, and an independent apparatus for irradiating UV light. At a minimum, there is clearly no suggestion of a UV irradiation outlet

being moved in association with the extrusion orifice of a three-dimensional automatic coating apparatus, as recited in claim 1.

At least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Since claims 4, 5, 12-17 and 22-24 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency. Claims 18 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and the features thereof have been incorporated into claim 1.

Kawabuchi, Watanabe and Bernd

Claims 1, 4, 5, 12-19 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kawabuchi, Watanabe and Bernd.

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over Kawabuchi and Watanabe for the reasons set forth above. Since Bernd fails to cure the noted deficiencies of Kawabuchi and Watanabe, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Applicant submits that claims 4, 5, 12-17 and 22-24 are patentable over the cited references at least by virtue of their dependency. Claims 18 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and the features thereof have been incorporated into claim 1.

Combination of Watanabe, Wakamatsu, Bernd, and Kawabuchi

Claims 4, 5, 8, 10, 12-20 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watanabe, Watanabe in view of Wakamatsu, Wakamatsu in view of Watanabe or over Watanabe in view of Bernd and Kawabuchi.

Since Wakamatsu and Bernd fail to cure the deficient teachings of Kawabuchi and Watanabe, as noted above, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Applicant submits that claims 4, 5, 8, 10, 12-17, 20 and 22-24 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency. Claims 18 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and the features thereof have been incorporated into claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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